

December 24, 2017

*****Reminder: There will be no Sunday School classes meeting on Christmas Eve. We will have Morning Worship at 10:30am and a Candlelight Service at 6:00 pm. This lesson is for your time of study this week.**

Please see the following page for the Sunday School lesson for December 31st.

“Teach what is Appropriate”

Focal Passage: Titus 2:1-15 (NASB)

Cross References: John 1:14-18; Ephesians 5:20-6:9; Colossians 3:17-25; 1 Timothy 2:1-6; 4:12

BIBLE IN A YEAR READING PLAN

Dec 17 Titus-Philemon	Dec 18 Hebrews 1-6
Dec 19 Hebrews 7-10	Dec 20 Hebrews 11-13
Dec 21 James 1-5	Dec 22 1 Peter 1-5
Dec 23 2 Peter 1-3	Dec 24 1 John 1-5

Foundational Truths of the Passage:

- God’s Word gives instructions for life to all ages of men and women. Our conduct matters to God.
- Our speech and conduct reflect upon the reputation of the church.
- “The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age. . .” (v 11-12)
- Christ Jesus gave Himself to redeem us. We are to be a people of His own possession.

Lesson Idea: No matter our age or station in life, we need to learn sound doctrine and live godly lives.

Titus 2:1-15

1 But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine. 2 Older men are to be temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance.

3 Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, 4 so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 to be sensible, pure, workers at

home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.

6 Likewise urge the young men to be sensible; 7 in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified, 8 sound in speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.

9 Urge bondslaves to be subject to their own masters in everything, to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, 10 not pilfering, but showing all good faith so that they will adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect.

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, 12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior,

Christ Jesus, 14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

15 These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

DISCUSSION:

- V 1. What things are “fitting for sound doctrine?”
- V 2. What traits were older men supposed to exhibit, and what do those traits look like?
- V 3-4. What were older women supposed to be like? What responsibilities do they have towards the younger women?
- V 4-5. How were younger women supposed to behave? What does it mean “to be subject to their own husbands?” Why were all these traits important? How does our behavior affect whether the Word of God is honored or dishonored?
- V 6. Why would young men need to be “urged to be sensible?”
- V 7-8. What was Titus supposed to demonstrate, and why? (see 1 Timothy 4:12) Who is the “opponent,” and how is he put to shame?
- V 9-10. How were servants supposed to behave, and why? How do these instructions apply to the workplace today?
- V 11. How has the “grace of God appeared?” (see John 1:14-18) How is salvation brought to all men?

(see 1 Timothy 2:1-6) Why won't all men receive that salvation?

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- V 12. What does the grace of God and our salvation instruct us to do? Why?
- V 13. What does God's grace and salvation cause us to look towards? What is the significance of the titles Paul uses for Jesus: "*our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ*"?
- V 14. What did Jesus do to redeem us? What are we redeemed **from**, and what are we redeemed **for**?
- V 15. In what manner was Titus supposed to present his message? Why?

APPLICATION:

- ✓ How do you match up to the instructions given for your age group?
- ✓ How can you exhibit a zealotry for good deeds this week?

Lesson by Stan Fike

NOTES from David Guzik, Titus (Enduring Word Commentary)

V 1. **The command to teach. *But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine:*** The idea behind this phrase has to do with *right living*, not just *right thinking*. The Living Bible translates this "*Speak up for the right living that goes along with true Christianity.*" The New Living Translation has "*Promote the kind of living that reflects right teaching.*" We can't escape it. The Bible is a book that tells us how to live... Paul simply wants Titus to fulfill the command of Jesus in Matthew 28:19-20: *Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you.*

V 2. **Older men:** Paul wanted Titus to know that they must live with the maturity and wisdom that their years should give them. This means sober, reverent, and temperate lives. The command to teach these things means that they do not come automatically with age...

Patience is the great ancient Greek word *hupomone*. It means a steadfast and active endurance, not a passive waiting. Older men are not to just patiently wait around until they pass on to the next world. They are to actively endure the challenges of life; even the challenges of old age.

V 3-4. **Older women...Reverent in behavior, not slanderers:** The idea behind behavior includes a suggestion of dress and how a woman carries herself. The word for slanderers is the

same word used for "devils." When the older women – or anyone else, for that matter – slander and gossip, then they do the devils' work. . . The adjective 'reverent' basically means 'suitable to a sacred office'... **Teachers of good things:** If the older women have special challenges, they also have special opportunities. God can use their wisdom and experience as they admonish the young women. This gives the older women something positive to live towards, instead of the negative things of slander and alcohol abuse.

V 4-5. **The young women:** According to Paul's instruction, Titus was not to make it his ministry to teach the young women directly. Instead, he was to equip and encourage the older women to teach the young women. . . Paul says that love for husbands and children must be taught. Certainly, aspects of this love are inborn. But other aspects – especially aspects that reflect the self-giving sacrifice of Jesus – must be taught.

Good, obedient to their own husbands: Goodness isn't always easy in a world that blurs the line between good and evil, so the older women need to teach the younger to be good. **Obedient to their own husbands** is another way of expressing the wife's duty of submission in the marriage relationship (Ephesians 5:22, Colossians 3:18). **That the word of God may not be blasphemed:** When Christians don't live in a Biblical, godly manner it means that the word of God may be blasphemed among the ungodly.

V 6-7. **(Younger men)... Likewise:** This is a linking word. It shows that what the young men need to learn isn't all that different from what the younger women, the older women, and the older men need to learn. We may need a slightly different emphasis depending on our station in life, but the essential message of godly living is the same.

To be sober-minded: The Living Bible translates the thought well: *Urge the young men to behave carefully, taking life seriously.* This is the only command Titus is told to emphasize to young men, but sometimes a difficult one for younger men.

V 8. **In all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works:** Titus had to be more than a teacher, he also had to be an example. His guidance to others could not be taken seriously if he himself was not walking after the Lord. **In doctrine showing integrity:** Titus had to be an example in doctrinal stability and integrity. If he wasn't comfortably settled in his understanding of the Scriptures, he wasn't ready to lead.

V 11. **The grace of God that brings salvation:** Grace brings salvation. You don't go out and "get" salvation; it comes to you and you have the opportunity to receive it. **Has appeared to all men:** There is one gospel of grace for all men. God doesn't have a gospel of grace for some and a gospel of law or self-justification for others. All men find salvation by the grace of God.